

Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3147

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 15080

EXDIS

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UR, US

SUBJ: CONVERSATION WITH KOSYGIN

1. IN ENGAGED IN BRIEF BUT SPIRITED CONVERSATION WITH PRIME MINISTER KOSYGIN AT GDR NATIONAL DAY RECEPTION OCTOBER 4. KOSYGIN LOOKED FIT AND TRIM, AND SEEMED IN GOOD SPIRITS.

2. WHEN I MENTIONED THAT I HAD PARTICIPATED IN TALKS WITH GROMYKO IN WASHINGTON AND NEW YORK, KOSYGIN SAID HE AND OTHER MEMBERS SOVIET LEADERSHIP HAD STUDIED REPORTS OF THOSE CONVERSATIONS AND HAD BEEN PLEASED AND REASSURED BY THEM. SOVIET SIDE APPRECIATED FACT THAT PRESIDENT HAD DEVOTED SO MUCH TIME TO DISCUSSIONS WITH GROMYKO, WHICH WERE ESPECIALLY IMPORTANT SINCE THEY REPRESENTED FIRST HIGH-LEVEL CONTACT WITH PRESIDENT. KOSYGIN SAID PRESIDENT SEEMED TO WISH TO CONTINUE POLICY OF DETENTE AND NORMALIZATION; VTHIS WAS GOOD AND HIS STATEMENTS HAD BEEN CAREFULLY NOTED.

3. KOSYGIN THEN LAUNCHED INTO EXPOSITION ALONG FAMILIAR LINES OF NEED TO CONTROL ARMS RACE, TAKING IN PASSING SOME GOOD-NATURED DIGS AT U.S.. HE ASKED RHETORICALLY WHO NEEDED MORE ARMS, SINCE THERE WERE ALREADY MORE THAN ENOUGH; HOWEVER, U.S. APPARENTLY DIDN'T AGREE WITH THIS LOGIC, SINCE IT KEPT INCREASING ITS MILITARY BUDGET, WHICH NOW
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STOOD AT 85 BILLION DOLLARS. SOVIET MILITARY BUDGET, HE

SAID, WAS NOWHERE NEAR THAT AMOUNT. WHEN I COMMENTED THAT OUR BUDGET CONSTITUTED FULL AND OPEN ACCOUNTING OF ALL AOUR EXPENDITURES, WHEREAS PUBLISHED SOVIET MILITARY BUDGET REPRESENTED ONLY PART OF SOVIET MILITARY OUTLAY, KOSYGIN DENIED THIS AND CLAIMED IT WAS U.S. WHICH HAD HIDDEN ITEMS. HE WENT ON TO SAY THAT WE SHOULD EXCHANGE INFORMATION ON MILITARY BUDGETS AND THAT THIS WOULD BE GOOD STEP FORWARD IN DETENTE. I NOTED THAT ONE PROBLEM IN THIS CONNECTION WAS OBTAINING FULL INFORMATION ABOUT ALL MILITARY EXPENDITURES.

4. RESPONDING TO MY MENTION OF SECRETARY'S IMPENDING VISIT TO MOSCOW AND CRUCIAL IMPORTANCE OF AGREEING IN PRINCIPLE ON WAYS TO LIMIT STRATEGIC ARMS, KOSYGIN CONCURRED EMPHATICALLY. HE SAID SECRETARY WOULD BE WARMLY RECEIVED AND SOVIET LEADERSHIP LOOKED FORWARD TO HIS VISIT WITH MUCH INTEREST.

5. IN PARTING REMARKS, KOSYGIN SAID SOME REFER DISPARAGINGLY TO U.S. AND SOVIET UNION AS "SUPER-POWERS." WE SHOULD NOT LET THAT BOTHER US, HOWEVER; WE ARE, IN FACT, SUPERPOWERS, AND AS SUCH HAVE SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITY TO TAKE STEPS TO CONTRIBUTE TO WORLD PEACE AND TO GIVE GOOD EXAMPLE TO SMALLER COUNTRIES.
STOESSEL

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